



Expanding I-5 Through Everett

Left Broadway Exit Closes June 27; Use New Broadway Right-Hand Exit

On Tuesday, June 27, 2006, the left-hand exit from I-5 northbound to Broadway Avenue will close. Drivers using Broadway to get to downtown Everett must exit on the right, approximately ¼ mile earlier, at the new, right-hand Broadway Avenue exit.

However, wet weather the night of June 26 may delay the opening of the ramp. Watch for northbound I-5 directional signs in case of wet weather.

This will be a big change for drivers who take the left-hand exit ramp, especially those who have used it for the last 38 years since its 1968 opening, said WSDOT Project Director Mike Cotten.

"Like many drivers, sometimes we only know one way to get home," said Cotten. "It is the same way we have driven for five, 10, or even 20 years and it is hard to break a habit."

Washington State Patrol Trooper Kirk Rudeen stressed that Everett drivers need to be prepared to deal with these traffic changes. "You must exit from the right side of the freeway and not the left," he says. "But if you miss the right-hand exit, don't panic--just go on to Pacific Avenue or Marine View Drive to exit the freeway," he advised. "You need to really pay attention to your own driving and what other drivers are doing around you," Trooper Rudeen said.

"Traffic is very heavy through this area and we want people to exit safely; which means watching for new signage and getting over to the right well in advance of the exit. Don't try to cut over at the last minute."

In the weeks prior to the closure, crews will be getting ready to make the switch by finishing the new bridge and completing the pavement to connect the new exit ramp to Broadway Avenue. The opening of the new right-hand Broadway Avenue exit is just one part of the \$260 million I-5 Everett Freeway Expansion project scheduled to be complete in June 2008.

When complete, drivers will have an additional lane in both directions on I-5 between 41st and US 2, expanded HOV lanes between SR 526 and Marine View Drive, a new I-5 / 41st Street Interchange, a new right-hand Broadway Avenue flyover exit bridge, and dozens of new safety, traffic flow, and environmental improvements.

The existing left-hand Broadway exit will be modified, lowered, and reopened by 2008 as a northbound exit-only and a southbound entrance-only for carpools, vanpools and buses, improving HOV operations and travel time.



An artist's visualization shows the new, right-hand Broadway Avenue exit, and future left-hand HOV lane access ramps, freeway lanes and 41st Street interchange. The new, right-hand Broadway Avenue exit begins about 1/4 of a mile before the existing left-hand exit, which closes June 27. Drivers will need to adjust their northbound commute and move to the right to exit.

(Over)

Visit our Web Site:

www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/I5/hovsr526tous2

InfoLINE: 1-877-241-0770

For More Information Contact:

Connie Lewis, Community Outreach Coordinator

phone: 425-405-1796 e-mail: lewisc@wsdot.wa.gov

Victoria Tobin, WSDOT Public Information

phone: 425-405-1785 e-mail: tobinv@wsdot.wa.gov

WSP Trooper Rudeen Says:

Drive Smart as Broadway Left Exit Closes



Remember to move to the right on Tuesday June 27 when the left hand exit to Broadway closes and the new right-hand exit opens. Habits are often hard to break and some of you have been using this exit for more than 20 years.

Here are some tips to keep you moving that week:

- **Move to the Right.** If you miss the new Broadway I-5 right-hand exit on Tuesday, June 27th, **don't panic.** Move carefully over into the right lane and take the next exit at Pacific Avenue. A left turn at the end of this exit ramp will take you right back to Broadway Avenue.
- **Pay attention** to the new signage.
- **Watch the traffic around you**--you may be paying attention but the driver next to you may not.
- **Watch your speed.**
- **Think Ahead.** Give yourself plenty of time to move to the right--habits are hard to break, so **think ahead!**
- **Slow down.** Night crews will stripe and place barrier on the freeway near the I-5 northbound Broadway exit beginning Monday night, June 26th to get the Broadway Flyover ready to open and to close the left hand exit the next morning. **Slow down in this area of I-5 overnight.**
- WSP will use a **rolling slowdown** northbound sometime between 1 a.m. and 2 a.m. Monday night to help crews make the transition from left exit to right exit. On Tuesday night, these barrels will be replaced with concrete barrier. Please don't try to drive through the barrels or barriers that block this left-hand exit.



Project Director Mike Cotten meets with local television stations to educate drivers about the change and emphasize safety.

Trooper Kirk Rudeen is the Washington State Patrol Public Information Officer in Snohomish County.

Rain will delay ramp opening and closure.